GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5937
ANSWERED ON:31.08.2001
VISA DESK SYSTEM IN IGI AIRPORT
DINSHA J. PATEL

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Customs Department at IGI Airport, New Delhi been recently equipped with Visa Desk System to identify frequent offenders;

(b) if so, a similar system was operaional at the above airport some years back;

(c) the reasons for discontinuation of this system alongwith the names of the officials during whose tenure this system was unauthorisedly removed; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken against the erring officers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) : Yes, Sir.

(c) : The Customs Visadex System at the IGI Airport linked with Immigration Centralised Visadex System had developed certain software problems and went into disuse sometime in the later half of 1997. It took time in restoring connectivity between the Customs and the Immigration computers, based upon sound-dex principle. During the period the computerised linked and exchange of information was not operative, alerts issued by the DRI were kept inMaster folder and referred to for follow-up checks of particular suspect passengers. Similarly, local alerts were also being monitored as and when the situation demanded and even help of the Immigration Authorities taken. There were no orders issued for discontinuation of the Customs Visadex System.

(d) : Does not arise in view of the position stated at (c) above. However, the reasons for non-operation and steps required to make the system effec- tively functional are being further examined in coordination with Immigration Authorities.